

Dunblane Community Council

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Minutes of the meeting of the Dunblane Community Council held on Monday, 2 June 2008, in the Burgh Chambers, Dunblane.

Present: Terence O'Byrne (Chairman), Frederic Gilmour (Secretary), Lawrie Dewar (Treasurer), John Alexander, Charles McHugh, Sylvia Cairns, Alan Booth, Craig French.

In attendance: Councillor Jim Thomson, Councillor David Goss, PC Simon Fraser, Dr D White (Headteacher, Dunblane High School), Sue Faulkner, Moira Stewart, Stewart Denham, Kevin Curtin (Dunblane Transition Towns Project), Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary).

1. Apologies: Apologies have been received from Councillor Graham Houston.

2. Chairman's Remarks: There was none.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting of 12 May 2008

These were approved, proposed by Lawrie Dewar and seconded by Sylvia Cairns.

4. Matters arising

Junction of Smith Loan and the High Street As nothing has happened yet, Charles McHugh will contact Jim Mullen to ascertain when the double yellow lines will appear. **Action:** Charles McHugh.

Local plan for Ashfield and Kinbuck The previous plan did not include Ashfield and Kinbuck and Alan Booth is going to contact community organisations in the two villages to find out if it would be better for them to have their own local plan, separate from Dunblane.

He reported that grants have been made available for putting together a local plan and that a subcommittee will be formed shortly. **Action:** Alan Booth.

First Response The Chairman met Alan Moffat from First Response who has had a good response to an article in the *Allanwater News* about setting up a team in Dunblane and hopes to organise a public meeting in August or September. It is hoped a member of the community council will sit on the subcommittee which will be required to run the team and raise finances.

Path at Laighills This path has not been included in Stirling Council's Core Paths Plan and Alan Booth is going to send details of this to the Chairman. **Action:** Alan Booth.

Parking Stirling Council has officially issued traffic regulation orders and objectors have three weeks to respond. The Chairman noted that the community council's objections, raised by letter in February, have not all been addressed and no account has been taken of the following: parking restrictions on Saturday; the cost of a parking permit; the question of who was going to enforce the restrictions; the need for a designated taxi rank; that the income should be ring-fenced for Dunblane; and that Springfield Terrace residents should be allowed to park in the upper Tesco car park. It was agreed to reiterate these objections to Stirling Council. **Action:** the Chairman.

A discussion followed in which Alan Booth queried the efficacy of formulating a parking policy when no study has been made into whether the main cause of the difficulty in finding parking spaces in Dunblane was due to people coming from outwith Dunblane, in which case from where, or to people within Dunblane parking at the station. He felt the aims and objectives of the proposed parking restrictions were unclear: are they to discourage people from coming to Dunblane to park at the station or are they simply to provide more parking spaces. The Council had been unwilling to conduct a survey. It was agreed that the Chairman will enquire from the Council if a survey could be carried out to ask people parking in Dunblane how much the new charges will deter them from parking here.

It was also noted that Tesco pay a charge to the Council for the car park but, at times, their customers cannot find spaces to park because of commuter parking. The dispute with Scotrail is still ongoing although the Council claim they now have evidence to prove that it was formally adopted in the 1970s.

CCTV As no report has yet been received from the Council, the Chairman will pursue this. **Action:** the Chairman.

Toilet at the Laighills The Chairman will write to the Council about this, and Councillor Thomson agreed to attend the August meeting of the community council to talk about the provision of public toilets in the Stirling Council area. **Action:** the Chairman.

Windfarm Community Grant Craig French reported that two individuals from the community have accepted places on the grant committee and that they were ready to advertise for applications. It was also agreed that community bodies, clubs and societies be notified of the opportunity to apply for funding. **Action:** Domenico Angiolini and Craig French.

It was also agreed that, in the event of someone on the grant committee also being a member of a body applying for funds, they should notify their interest and abstain from voting.

5. Police Report: See attached.

The Chairman welcomed Dr White to the meeting to discuss the problems associated with Muck Up Day at the High School. Dr White had agreed with the S6 pupils that on their last official day, normally associated with Muck Up Day, they would be taken on a school trip to Alton Towers. She had, therefore, been disappointed that they did not attend school on the previous Friday which then became Muck Up Day. Having impressed on everyone that no damage to the new school would be tolerated, the trouble on the day had occurred outwith the school grounds and, therefore, outwith her control. However, at 9.30 a.m. she had to call in the police after masked youths were seen in Baxter's Loan. PC Fraser had chased them and taken possession of bags of eggs and flour they had left behind. The youths, not pupils at the school, had, later in the day, been charged with assault. During the day, eggs had been thrown and water-pistols fired from cars driven mainly by ex-pupils. PC Fraser had approached groups and tried to talk to them, without any success.

Dr White had tried to persuade the first to third year pupils to stay in school over lunch-time, but she has no authority to keep them in. They had, in the event, also got involved.

It was recognised that this was a community problem, involving pupils, parents and the police and it was recognised that some pupils and parents thought of Muck Up Day as acceptable. However, the Chairman reported that David Cameron, Head of Children's Services at Stirling Council, had noted that Muck Up Day in Dunblane is a more serious problem than elsewhere in the area. More action by the school and the police will be taken next year, with PC Fraser talking to year groups.

A discussion then followed about the problem of litter being dropped by pupils, especially at lunch-time between Tesco and the school. Dr White informed the meeting that an eco-group has been set up in school which was going to address pupils at an assembly about the problems of litter. Councillor Thomson informed the meeting that the following day has been designated National Litter Day of Action, but noted that the Procurator Fiscal was unwilling to charge anyone under the age of 16 with dropping litter. However, it is important to note that it was a minority of young people who were guilty of dropping litter.

The Chairman thanked Dr White for attending the meeting and, in response to his suggestion that there were closer links between the school and the community council, she promised to encourage representatives of pupils to attend the September meeting.

PC Fraser gave his report, and informed the meeting that a Young Drivers' Evening has been organised for 10 June. This would not be an enforcement evening but would provide information to drivers about what was legally permitted in terms of noise and modifications to vehicles.

He reported that anti-social behaviour teams of four officers were in operation in the area.

6. Correspondence: See attached.

A phone call has also been received from the captain of the Dunblane Golf Club which was raising money for children's charities, to enquire if there was a charity specific to Dunblane. Any suggestions should be passed to the Secretary.

7. Treasurer's Report: See attached.

8. Planning Report: See attached.

The revised plans for the old High School site were considered and, although it was agreed that they were an improvement because the site was now less cramped, the impact on traffic of the development has not been taken into account. The Chairman will draft a letter to the Council about his. **Action:** the Chairman.

Alan Booth expressed disappointment that the Council no longer has a policy about including affordable housing within new developments and he wondered what the effect of increasing the number of houses would have on the balance sheet of paying for the new High School. Councillor Thomson was also trying to discover what would happen if there were a downturn in the market and the developer did not make the expected profit.

The Chairman and Alan Booth have attended a meeting with members of the Planning Department at the end of April to discuss decisions made by the Roads Department with regards to the High School site, the Anchorscross development and the Dickson's site. Extreme disappointment was expressed that, although both the Planning and Roads departments were under Environment Services, they do not work together. The Chairman has been in discussion since March with Mr Brian Devlin, Director of Environmental Services with regard to getting the Council to come to a voluntary agreement with the demolition company about restricting traffic but so far the only agreement is to restrict such traffic during morning, lunch and going home times at the school, and no agreement has been put in place to restrict traffic using the Old Doune Road. Council officials have declined to provide any help. There was now concern that construction traffic at the old High School site and at Anchorscross would also not be under any restrictions. Councillor

Thomson promised that he would follow this up and the Chairman will forward copies of emails about this issue to him. **Action:** the Chairman and Councillor Thomson.

Concern was also expressed about the grass-cutting at Rylands Park and the lack of response from Les Goodfellow to enquiries for a copy of the grass-cutting schedule. Councillor Thomson promised to follow this up and said that Les Goodfellow should be attending a community council meeting shortly to talk about the Council's Open Space Strategy. **Action:** Councillor Thomson.

Another example of different departments within Environment Services not working together was given by Alan Booth. He went over the history of the new bridge built on the path from Barbush to Ramoyle which, from the beginning, was criticised as crossing the countryside footpath which would be in danger of washing away when the scouring burn was in spate. When this happened, no-one within Environment Services was prepared to take responsibility or even admit there was a problem. Alan Booth is going to send details to Councillor Thomson for him to follow this up. **Action:** Alan Booth and Councillor Thomson.

9. Report of Meetings

Both the Treasurer and Alan Booth attended a recent meeting of the Dunblane Development Trust and the Treasurer gave a report.

10. Councillors' Report

Councillor Goss reported on a visit the Housing Group had made to a One-Stop Shop in West Lothian, where anyone could drop in to deal with any council matter. He was impressed that it dealt with a large volume of housing matters with a small number of staff.

He also reported that the Scottish Government has agreed a budget for the National Park and a new chief executive has been appointed.

Councillor Goss notified the meeting that the Planning committee was looking at rural housing and restorations and at traffic problems arising from new housing. He also said that applications for funding for paths and woodlands could be made to the Environment Trust.

In reply to a question from Alan Booth about the progress of Dunblane setting up its own Area Community Planning Forum, Councillor Goss could not give any further information.

Councillor Thomson brought to the meeting's notice the problem of hogweed spreading down the river and the lack of funding for its eradication. Alan Booth pointed out that what was required was for it all to be sprayed at the same time but that, unfortunately, the head waters of the River Allan were not in the Stirling Council area. A publicity campaign would be useful to encourage people to get rid of plants when they were small, before they were a

danger. The Chairman asked Councillor Thomson to ensure that all hogweed in the public areas of Dunblane was sprayed with immediate effect.

Councillor Thomson reported that Stirling Council is to start a new local development plan.

11. AOCB

Kevin Curtin gave an informative report to the meeting of the Dunblane Transition Towns Project. Transition towns were in existence around the country and it is hoped that Dunblane could also become one. The emphasis is on becoming more aware of energy saving and reducing the carbon footprint, of becoming more sustainable. It is hoped to set up a working group to look into how to proceed, and to work with the Dunblane Development Trust, the community council and Stirling Council. A preliminary meeting is to be held on 9 June. Craig French welcomed this local community initiative and encouraged them to get publicity through the *Community View* and the *Allanwater News*. The Chairman thanked Kevin Curtin for bringing this to the attention of the community council.

Alan Booth brought up the question of the new M & S store not requiring a roundabout, although when the Dunblane Centre was built a roundabout had been insisted on. Councillor Thomson is to look into this. **Action:** Councillor Thomson.

John Alexander reported that he had phoned Stirling Council in March about the state of the pavements in Edward Place but, so far, nothing has been done. He also reported that loose treads on the bridge at the War Memorial need mending, and that he had found syringes at the playpark at George Street.

After a question from Sue Faulkner about removing the Christmas lights from the High Street, Lawrie Dewar agreed to bring it up at the next Development Trust meeting.

Moira Stewart produced a bus timetable for all the bus services provided for Bridge of Allan and queried whether something similar could be provided for Dunblane. The Chairman agreed to look into it. **Action:** the Chairman.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the community council will be on Monday, 11 August 2008.

The meeting ended at 10.15 p.m.

This is a true representation of the meeting.

Chairman Date

Terence O'Byrne

Secretary Date

Frederic Gilmour

Dunblane Community Council

Correspondence Received after the 7 April, 2008 DCC Meeting

Correspondence Received after the 12 May, 2008 DCC Meeting

- 1) on 13/05/08 from Stirling Council – Notice of public procession by Boys’ Brigade on 8 June, through Dunblane.
- 2) On 15/05/08 from Anne McGuire MP re breakfast meeting on 30 May to discuss ‘Money Matters’.
- 3) On 17/05/08 from SC, re Provost’s Civic Awards
- 4) On 19/05/08 from Anne McGuire MP, notice of forthcoming surgery dates at places outwith Dunblane.
- 5) On 23/05/08 from the War Memorials Trust concerning maintenance of war memorials.
- 6) On 24/05/08 from NHS Forth Valley re open forum meeting on 7 June re new acute hospital at Larbert.
- 7) On 29/05/08 from Cllr Jim Thomson (present at DCC mtg on 2 June) re review of public conveniences in the locality, and advising the DCC of the 9 topics included in his remit
- 8) On 29/05/08 from SC re Litter Day of Action
- 9) On 30/05/08 from SC advising temporary closure of Pendreich, Sheriffmuir and Sheriffmuir Branch roads, all in the Dunblane area, on 14 June to facilitate the Challenge Event.
- 10) On 31/05/08 from SC attaching the Council’s five-year Works Programme for the years 2008/9 to 2012/13.

F J A Gilmour
Hon Secretary
Dunblane Community Council
10 June 2008

Dunblane Community Council

Treasurers Report

29th May 2008.

‘Administration Account’	00347702
Expenditure since last report	£30.00
Interest	£0.13
Account balance to date 12 th May 2008.	<u>£161.65</u>

‘Community Fund’	00347753
Expenditure since last report	Nil
Income since last report	Nil
Interest	£0.11
Account balance to date 12 th May 2008	<u>£200.09</u>

Lawrie Dewar, Treasurer, 29th May 2008

Lawrie Dewar
Treasurer

MONTHLY REPORT – JUNE 2008.

New Planning Applications received since last meeting

It is considered that the following applications have no implications for Dunblane as a whole and it is recommended that we leave it to the neighbour notification system to identify any local objections that there may be: Extensions at 3 Barbush, 30 Coldstream Ave, 3 Douglas Place, 9 Roman Way, 4 Kippenross. Convert agricultural building to dwelling at Glassinghall, Detailed refurbishment plans for the Hydro Hotel with new water tank for sprinkler system.

Revised plans for the housing on the old High School site have been received, these will be considered at this meeting. The main changes are the replacement of some of the detached houses with 2 blocks of six townhouses, all remaining houses to be 5 bedrooms. An increase in the number of units by one to a total of 76. The issue of construction traffic has still not been resolved despite significant efforts in the last 2 months.

Progress on Planning Action Log Items since last meeting.

The proposed alterations to 50 Old Doune Road have been approved.

Permission has been granted for the office development at Barbush, the Community Council had requested that a second roundabout be installed, Roads have decided that this is not required.

Despite further representations to the Director of Environment Services, no further progress has been made on the issue of control of construction traffic at the High School site and Anchorscross.

No decisions on the new house at 6 flats at Millrow, Conversion of the agricultural building at Little Hill, 2 houses at Pispah Mill, new house at Mid Cambushinne, new house at 25 Ochloch Park, new house at Cloisters Crofts

Other Planning Matters

Our attempt to meet with Roads to discuss planning issues has failed so far, no response has been received from Les Goodfellow to our email of April 29th.

The next meeting of the Planning sub-committee will be called on an as required basis, no firm date has been set.

Terence O'Byrne